

THE PROTESTANT DIVINE COMEDY

THE HISTORICAL JESUS



The searching for *the historical Jesus* — one of the most frivolous topics of all times — was a misleading business from the very beginning in eighteenth century. Librarian Reimarus was, so to speak, the pioneer of numberless expeditions towards what one might well name as *the exegetical El Dorado*. As every one very well knows, Spaniards had got into madness in such a quest throughout South America during sixteenth century. However, it looks like Germans were and still are adamantly concerned with this sort of *popular mobilization of scriptural sport*, all of which is — so far — no more than a justification for charging universities' and seminaries' payroll offices. Thus, *the Reimarus' Syndrome* shows vividly how distorted a mind might become in just a matter of few papyrus. The most pitiful example of this malady is represented by Herr Exegesius Sitzimleben. The so-called *free exam of the Scriptures* became a kind of tournament for seminarians and other species, who make use of Sitzimleben's exegetical tools *ad nauseam*. Totally out of his mind, professor Sitzimleben exerts himself by using real paraphernalia of exegetical machinery, and all this of his own craftsmanship. His latest lunatic endeavors are — according to my informants — reaching *the historical Quijote*, *the historical Hyperion*, *the historical Hamlet*, and *the historical Raskolnikov*, among others.

Humbly,

your mean, base, useless servant,

il signore Pecorelli, tuttologo e pittore molto rumoroso.

